

September 3, 2021

Elizabeth Adams, Director, Air and Radiation Division, Region 9  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne Street, AIR-7  
San Francisco, California 94105  
[Elizabeth.Adams@epa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Adams@epa.gov)

Dear Director Adams:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is submitting final documentation for 2018 exceptional events that occurred in the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (District). CARB requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) concur that the document accompanying this request supports the flagging of ozone exceedances in the District as natural or exceptional events due to wildfire smoke impacts from numerous fires in the State of California.

Unusually high ozone concentrations, exceeding the 2015 8-hour national ambient air quality standard of 70 ppb (standard), were recorded at the Red Hills monitoring site from August 3 to August 9, 2018. The analyses and data presented in the accompanying 2018 document, along with analyses and data to be presented in an upcoming 2020 document, demonstrate that without the impacts from the wildfire smoke, the 2020 Design Value for the Eastern Portion of San Luis Obispo nonattainment area would have been below the standard.

The 30-day public comment period required by 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(v) will begin on September 3, 2021 and will be completed by October 4, 2021. CARB is requesting parallel processing under U.S. EPA's procedure cited in 40 CFR 51, appendix V, section 2.3. Parallel processing is needed to expedite U.S. EPA action regarding the attainment status of the Eastern Portion of San Luis Obispo County. Any comments received during the public comment period, as well as responses by CARB, will be submitted to U.S. EPA at the earliest possible date.

On October 3, 2016, U.S. EPA revised the *Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events* rule that allows data to be flagged and excluded from consideration by U.S. EPA when making decisions related to the attainment status of an area (81 FR 68216). This rule requires that states submit documentation to support the initial flagging to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation, please contact Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at [sylvia.vanderspek@arb.ca.gov](mailto:sylvia.vanderspek@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael Benjamin, D. Env., Division Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division

Enclosure

cc: (without enclosure)

Gary Willey, Air Pollution Control Officer, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District  
[gwilley@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:gwilley@co.slo.ca.us)

David Cardiel, Air Quality Specialist, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District  
[dacardiel@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:dacardiel@co.slo.ca.us)

Cody Gibbons, Air Quality Specialist, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District  
[dacardiel@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:dacardiel@co.slo.ca.us)

Meghan Field, Air Quality Specialist & Public Information Officer, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District  
[mfield@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:mfield@co.slo.ca.us)

Gwen Yoshimura, Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
[yoshimura.gwen@epa.gov](mailto:yoshimura.gwen@epa.gov)

Sylvia Vanderspek, Branch Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch

Jin Xu, Manager, Air Quality Planning Branch

Alicia Adams, Manager, Air Quality Planning Branch

Matthew Densberger, Air Pollution Specialist, Air Quality Planning Branch

Theresa Najita, Air Pollution Specialist, Air Quality Planning Branch

Elizabeth Adams  
September 3, 2021  
Page 3

EO Chron

AQPS Chron

AQPSD Assignment #11188

X:\Natural Events\Ozone Events\2018\EE Development\Final Drafts